



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
EVELYN PADILLA, R.N.	:	
License # 26NO12284700	:	
	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Evelyn Padilla ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about April 5, 2014, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application which asked whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2014," referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014. Respondent was

also asked whether she completed the course on Organ and Tissue Donation. Respondent answered "yes" to both questions and certified the answers by submitting the online application.

3. By letter dated November 20, 2014, the Board asked Respondent to provide proof of completion of required continuing education during her last biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014.

4. Respondent provided a reply and admitted that she had not completed all the required continuing education. She indicated she would send some certificates of completion to the Board if she was able to obtain them from her previous employer. Respondent failed to provide any further response.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), nurses are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request.

Respondent failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that Respondent completed the continuing education

credits required for renewal during the biennial period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014. The Board therefore finds Respondent in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b) and 13:37-5.3(f), which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the license renewal process in falsifying her continuing education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on September 8, 2015, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license, and imposing a reprimand and a \$250 civil penalty. A copy of the Order was served upon respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order, sending in a money order in the amount of \$250 and a copy of her nursing license, along with a page from the Provisional Order with the paragraph relating to the civil penalty highlighted. Subsequently, respondent sent in documentation of completion of a total of fifty (50) contact hours of qualifying continuing education completed on January 29, 2016, including a one hour course in organ and tissue donation. Thus respondent has belatedly satisfied her continuing education obligation for the 2012-2014 licensing cycle. However, the Board found that imposition of the reprimand for misrepresentation as to continuing education on Ms. Padilla's 2014 renewal application was warranted, as she indicated on the application that she would have completed the obligation by May 31, 2014. Similarly, the \$250 civil penalty was warranted for failure to timely complete required continuing education.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 10th day of February, 2016,
ORDERED that:

1. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for falsifying the continuing education information on her 2014 license renewal application.

2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for failing to timely

complete required continuing education. As respondent has already provided payment of this amount, no further action is required on her part.

3. Only twenty (20) contact hours of the continuing education completed on January 29, 2016 may be applied to satisfy respondent's obligation to complete thirty (30) contact hours of qualifying continuing education for the 2014-2016 licensing cycle.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: Patricia Murphy PhD APN
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President